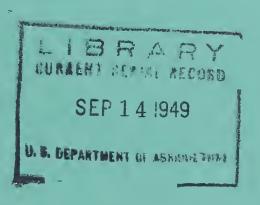
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FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS and IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

for MONTANA March 1,1949



Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service United States Department of Agriculture

in cooperation with



FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEY AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

MONTANA
Upper Missouri and Upper Columbia Rivers

Report Prepared by

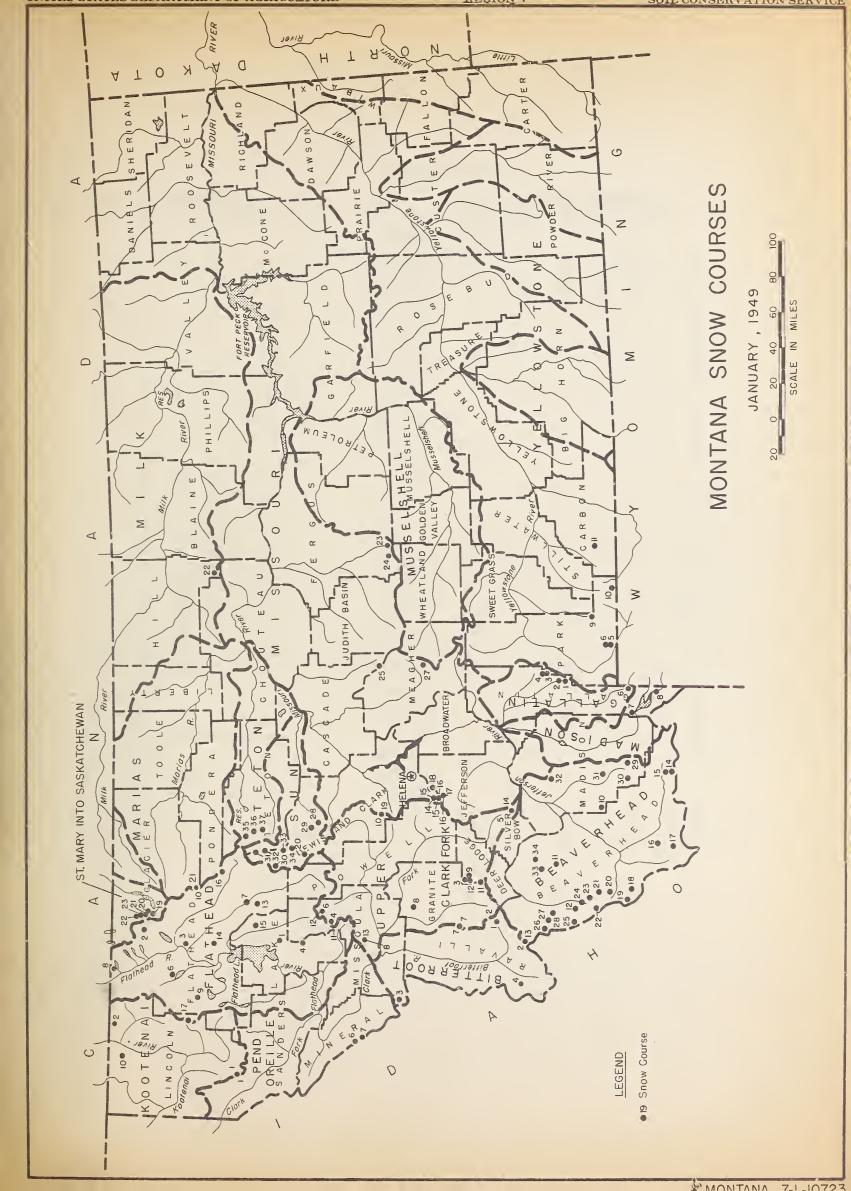
O. W. Monson: Head, Rural Engineering
Montana State College
and
Ashton R. Codd: Hydraulic Engineer
Soil Conservation Service

Division of Irrigation Soil Conservation Service

and

Montana Agricultural Experimental Station Bozeman, Montana

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INDEX TO MONTANA SNOW COURSES

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	Montana No.	Elev.	Sec.	Location Twp.	Range Long.	Record	Messuring Dates	Masured By b	Kaza	Montana No.	Elev.	Sec.	Twp. Raz		Record Began	Measuring Dates®	Measured By b
			MISSO	URI RIVE	R DRAINA	GE.						COLUM	IA DRAIN	AGE			
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Madison RIVER elter est Yellows ne	. 8	6550 6700 3	22 4×35	11S 13S	3E 58	1934 1934	1,2,3,4,5 1,2,3,4,5	2	East Fork hanger Station Gibbons Fass Mud Creek Pasture hezperce Camp Skalkaho Summit	1 2 3 4 7	5400 7100 4500 5580 1 7258	16 4 24 9x20 30	2\$ 15 11h 24 15 25	714 Sav 474 374 178	1937 1934 1937 1.37	2,3,4,5 2,3,4,5 3,4 4,5	1,2
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De.11 s le 1 sa w Extension sic Lake -1 k -2 New Marl' Frail 1 Mile STAND. B RIVER	1 2 3 4 6	2100 6600 6500 6700 7150	14 22 30 24	53 45 35 35 115	65 6E 78 6E 5B	1935 1934 1935 1939 1934	3,4,5 3,4,5 1,2,3,4 3,4 2,3,4,5	2,6 2,6 6,7 6,7 2	FIATHEAD RIVER Big Creek Cattle queen Desert Mountain Elk Mountain Goat Kountain Hell Roaring Creek Divide	1 2 3 4 5	4700 5600 5750 7000 5770	7 24 1 47°391	35N 1 31h 1 20N 1 112°54 32h 2	27/	1941 1939 1937 1941 190# 1942 1942	4,5 3,4 4,5 3,4 3,4 4,5	4 5 1 4 2 1
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PRELIMINARY IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR MONTANA

March 1, 1949

The outlook for Irrigation water supply for the 1949 season is "EXCELLENT". Snow Survey measurements made on or close to March 1 indicate that there is approximately 130% of average water content in the snow packs for this season. This figure is relatively the same as last season. Reservoir storage is generally "GOOD."

*

The threat of FLOOD HAZARD from the plains are greatly reduced by virture of the reduced rate of melting during the last seven days of the month: A real FLOOD HAZARD exists over the Upper Columbia River Basin in Montana where an extremely heavy snow pack exists. Extremely warm temperatures with rainfall will, without a doubt, cause considerable damage.

Snow pack conditions in general indicate that there is a greater percentage of snow at low elevation courses than at high elevation courses. The low elevation courses (below 6500ft.) show approximately 140% to 180% of average water content while the high elevation courses (above 6500ft.) show from 125% to 130%

On the Milk River, the course at Rocky Boy indicated 86% of average which may indicate a slight shortage of snow in the lower reaches of the Basin. However, measurements made at Marias Pass at a high elevation indicate 153% of average.

of average water content which is indicative of an early spring runoff.

The Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Basins will produce a good supply of water and again the percentage is usually higherat the lower elevation than higher in the mountains.

The Main Stem of the Yellowstone River will supply approximately the same volume of water as last season; however, the timing of the peak flows will vary considerably by virtue of the high percentage of water content at low elevations. Snow measurements indicate about 10% greater volume this season than last year.

COLUMBIA RIVER

Snow Surveys on the Columbia River Basin indicate a greater percentage of snow at low elevations than at the higher stations which presents a greater hazard to flood conditions from warm temperatures accompanied by rain.

Precipitation reports from stations in the headwaters of the Clarks
Fork River indicate a departure of +5.00 in. from normal. This added water will
greatly increse the FLOOD HAZARD.

U.S. DEPARTWENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU STATE OF MOVIANA, MONTHL? PRECIFITATION FOR OCTOBER, 1948 - FEBRUARY 28, 1949

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FEBRUARY 1949	Precip.	0.91	ထ္	5	1.28		0.71		0.78	0.79	6	0.59	0.42	1 1	1.69		0.48	0.31	0.46	0.28	0.41	0.14	1 1	0.23
H	Dep.	0.10	•	-0.55	-0.50		1 1	-0.21	0.33	1 1	-0.29	0.10	1	1 1	1 1		0.83	1 1	0.14	-0.31	0.64	-0.23	0.19	1
JANUARY 1949	Precip.	0.50	5	200	1.07		1.24	0.62	0.99	1.40	0.44	0.66	1.14	1 1	1.40		1.46	0.57		0.16		0.08	φ.	0.16
بہ	Гер.	.50	• 63	.61	•00		63	.21	.12	12	60	• 33	•28	1 1	•73		.23	30	.56	.12	60.	.20	32	12
DECEMBE 1948	Precip.	0.94	•	1.32	1.02		0.31	.95	0.63	.53	.52	.80	0.88	1 1	1.77	*	0.73	0.45	•	0.58	•	0.48	.31	0.16
SR.	Dep.	00.00	.2	0.72	0.02		-0.55	-0.45	0.11	2.	-0.35	0.16	-0.13	0.81	-0.45		0.18	90.	.10	16	1.30	0.82	80.1	33
NOVEMBER 1948	Precip.	• 4J	.77	1.53	1.50		0.44	-	0.70	0.39		0.61	. 67	1.02	•		0.18	0.63	0.63	0.25	1.67	1.15	0.49	0.14
TOBER 1948	Dep.	-0.43	-0.62	-0.47	-0.66		-1.08	69.0-	-0.68	-0.78	-0.58	-0.56	96.0-	-0.35	-1.60		-1.30	-0.79	-0.85	-0.73	-0.73	-0.59	-0.90	-0.75
OCTOBER 1948	Precip.	.36	90.	• 44	.40		0.10	0.15	0.04	. 08	60.	•05	.21	•01	.24		.01	90.	.03	00.	⊱	0.16	E-4	H
STATIONS		WEST OF DIVIDE	Deer Lodge	Hamilton	Kalispell Missoula	CENTRAL DIVISION	Варь	Dillon Mormal School	Fort Benton	Great Falls	Havre	Kelena WBO	Livingston	Lewistown Arpt.	Mystic Lake	EASTERN DIVISION	Billingsj/2	Circle	Frazer	Malta	Mildred	Medicine Lake	Elles City	Fort Peck

NOTE: Departure from normal figures without a minus sign (-) are plus.

STORAGE IN RESERVOIRS OF MONTANA

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN			AS OF FEB	RUARY 28, 1949
RESERVOIR	Location or on Diversion from	Usable Capacity	Contents This Montl End	Contents h February 1948
Lake Sewall	Missouri	37,800	24,330	36,220
Hauser Lake	Missouri	52,090	32,730	45,730
Ft. Peck Res.	Missouri	19,000,000	•	13,200,000
Ruby Res.	Ruby	38,500		
Harrison Lake	Willow Cr.	17,760		
Hebgen Res.	Madison River	345,000	255,900	283,700
Madison Res.	Madison River	41,000	37,970	37,140
Smith River Res.	Smith River	10,700		
Gibbons Res.	N. Fk. Sun River	105,000	70,350	60,140
Willow Creek	N. Fk. Sun-Willow C	r. 32,300	18,470	16,700
Pishkun Res.	N. Fk. Sun River	32,000	16,140	20,840
Lower Two Medicine L.	Two Medicine River	14,000		
Four Horns Res.	Badger Creek	20,000	9,800	7,330
Birch Creek Res.	Birch Creek	30,000	28,380	19,030
Lake Francis Res.	Birch Creek	112,000	99,120	102,340
Ackley Lake	Judith River	5,820		4,690
Durand Res.	N. Fk. Musselshell	7,010		
Dead Man Basin	Musselshell River	52,500		
Martinsdale Res.	So. Fk. Musselshell	23,100		
Fresno Reservoir	Milk River	127,200		71,800
Nelson Res.	Milk River	66,800		
Mystic Lake	W. Rosebud Creek	20,800	9,360	10,980
Glacier Lake	Rock Creek	4,200		
Cooney Res.	Red Lodge Creek	27,500		7,410
Tongue Res.	Tongue River	73,900		9,580
Sherburne Lake Res.	Swiftcurrent Creek	66,100	11,580	-
Lake Helena	Missouri River	10,450	2,330	7,200
COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN				
Georgetown Lake	Flint Creek	31,000	28,210	28,660
E. Fk. Rock Cr. Res.			20,220	,
Nevada Creek Res.		12,600	9,140	
W. Fk. Bitterroot Res.		31,700	10,000	10,000
Como Lake	Rock Creek	34,800		
Flathead Lake (Sommers)			651,600	681,200
Little Bitterroot	Little Bitterroot	37,100*	24,000	13,200
Dry Fork Res.	Dry Fork Creek	6,700*	•	2,240
Mission Valley	Mission Valley	•		
Reservoirs	(Flathead River)	105,000**	28,891	39,720

^{*}Comprise two Reservoirs on Dry Creek.

*Comprise two Reservoirs on Little Bitterroot River.

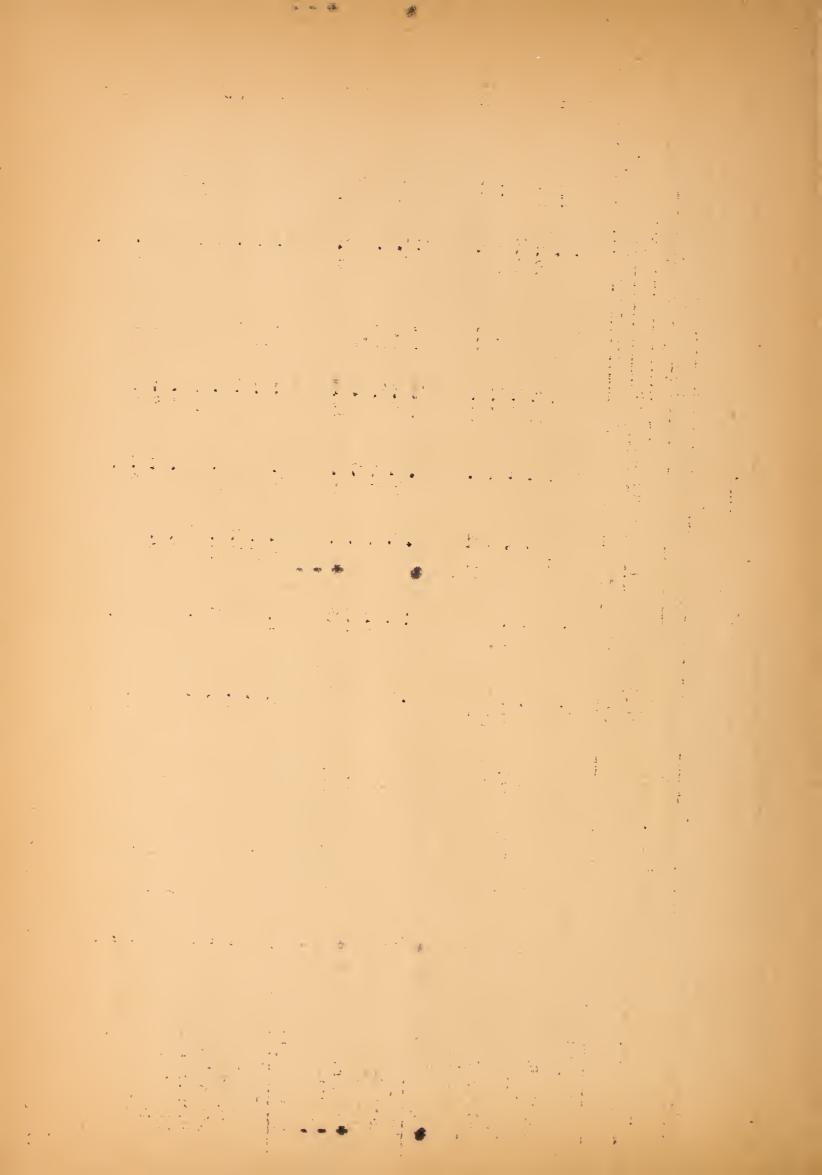
**Comprise nine small Reservoirs on Mission Valley Project Indian Reclamation Service.

		Years	1 of	%AVE. Record		2	2 2	2	2	2	2	2	147 15				2	2	2	2	2 2	2	103 4	126 11		2	2 2	2	2	2	6
		e Data*	April	Avg. 1%		1	1	1 b 1	!	 	1 1	1 1	8.3	5.4	20.8	1 1	1	1	1	li L	1 1	l l	0.6	5.4	1 1 1	1	1	1	1 1	1	l I
SINTS	(Inches)	Average		%AVE.		1	1	1	1	1	1 1	1	172	150	170	1	1	1	l l l	1	1 1	1 1	129	170	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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		1	Past F	1948		9.9	11.6	7.9	7.0	5.9	0.9	5.2	8.4	3.8	13.8	3.7	3.3	4.2	4.8	9.3	0.8	6.3	6.6	5.7	4.1	2.4	8.3	7.8	1.1	4.9	4.5
			March	1949		8.4	17.9	21.0	14.0	8.2	9.2	9.8	12.2	5.1	26.2	15.6	13.6			7.9	2.6	14.0	9.4	6.8	80	4.8	11.0	7.0		0.9	5.8
	Snow	Depth	(In.)	1949		36.2	9.69	71.4	47.2	31.4	35.4	42.2	42.2	23.8	81.2	51.5	46.2			36.4	13.3	46.5	38.9	29.3	35.2	23.2	39.8	32.0	0.6	29.4	26.6
-	Date	of	Survey	1949		2/15	2/19	2/19		•	•	2/17	_	3/1	-	2/21	2/21			8/2				3/5	_	_	2/24	`	2/25	2/7	2/15
		Elev.				7000	0069	7440	7 600	2900	8400	6700	8420	6950	7100	8100	7340	6930	7400	7480	6950	7300	6720	7200	6800	6650	0069	7090	6125	8850	6300
		No.				33	27	56	23	30	53	28	11	10	13	22	24	15	14	19	17	25	12	14	21	20	32	18	31	18	34
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MISSOURI BASIN	DRAINAGE BASIN	AND	SNOW COURSE**		Jefferson River	Anderson Meadow	Below Big Hole	Big Hole Pass	Floody Dick	Cottonwood	Cottonwood, Upper	East Boundary	Elk Horn	Flashlight	Gibbons Pass	Goldstone	Jahnke Creek	Lakeview Canyon	Lakeview Ridge	Lemhi Pass	Limekiln	Winer Forks	Miner Lake	Pipestone Pass	Selway Junction	Terrell Creek	Tobacco Root	Trail Creek		White Pine Ridge	Wise River

^{**} Course on adjacent basin ** Location of course shown on Index Map

		Years	of	Record	i.	CT	10	15	15	23	13			15		ω	15		13		11	15	4	11	14	15	15	15
			1	%hvg.		-	1 1	132	136	8 8	!		. 92	106	143	119	132		191	126	149	123	175	126	137	114	104	139
		Data*	April	hvg.	(9.5	15.5	10.6	14.0	19.5		19.7	8.2	6 •8		15.5		4.4	12.0	4.9	12.3	3.6	5.4			12.7	
SINTS	(Inches)	verage	n l	%Avg.		132	1	159	152	. 1 E	1 1		122	140	154	123	159		169	147	187	154	1	170	156	144	131	157
SNOW FEASUREMENTS	Content (March	Avg.		•		12.9	•	•	•		14.9	6.2	6.3	8	12.9		4.2	10.3	3.9	8.6	1 1	4.0	5.2	7.8	10.1	7.7
SNOW	Water C		Records	1947	1	11.5	6.8	10.1	0	13.4	7		16.0	6.2	7.6	10.7	9		0.9	9.1	3.6	13,5	1 1	5.7	9.1	3	16.3	CV2
			Past	1948		10.0	\$ \$ \$	10.5	7.0	8	13.2		50	11.3	\leftarrow	4	0		8 • 4	11.4	5.1	12.0	3.0			2	15.7	
			March	1949		14.0		0	14.4					8.7			0		7.1	15.1	7.3	15.1	6.3	6.8	8.1	11.2	13.2	12.1
-	Snow	Depth	(In.)	1949		46.6	Not Surveyed	6.09	47.4	Report	Report		58.9	34.1	35.1	37.8	6.09		26.9	51.1	31.0	52.6	29.8	29.3	33.0	45.6	45.6	44.0
	Date	of	Survey	1949	`	3/1	Not Si	2/28	3/1	_	No Rep		3/1	3/1	2/27		2/28		2/28		2/26		_	3/2		3/2	3/2	3/1
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MISSOURI BASIN			SNOW COURSE **		Madison River	Hebgen Loke	Norris Basin	21 Mile	West Yellovstone	Vallev Jien	Bi _s Springs	Gallatin River	Devil's Slide	Hood Meadow Ext.	Mystic Lake	New World	21 Mile	Main Stem Above Great Falls	Chessman	Crystal Lake	Grasshopper	Kings Till	Picnic drounds	Pipestone Fass				ssed etdinenc

*Course on adjacent basin **Location of course shown on Index Map



		Years	of	Record		2	~	. 23	·	6		· ~	l r-l			c	3 0	2 62		C	27	,	8			7
				%hvg.		1 1	1 1	!	1	131	- 1	1	1 1 3			1	1	1 1		6	701	D	1 1			79
		Data	Apri	Avg.		1	1 1	1 1	1	8.6	!	1 1	1 1			1	1	6 2		L	0. E	0 • 0	1			o. 0
ENTS	(Inches)	Average		%AVG.		1	1 1	-	1	149	1 1	1 1	1 1	٥		1 1	1	1 1		7.	000	0	1			8
SNOW WEASUREFERITS	Content (March	Avg.		1	1 1	1	1	7.6	. 1 . 1	1	1			1 1	1	1 1		7 2 1	H		1		ŧ	1°9
SMOW IN	Water Co		Records	1947		1	-	1	1	16.1	1	1 1				1	1	1 1		72 2) <	• H	1 1			7. • 4
	حد			1948	ı	7.0	1	7.7	1	9.8	1 1	- 1	1			12.3	4.5	6.6		[2]	•		•		r.	က မ
			March	1949		0.6	6.2	6.9	6.6	11.2		14.5	20.9			15.3	6.8	16.6		20.5	4.4	2) + +		<	1, •
	Snow	Depth	(In.)	1949		38.0	26.3	28.4	27.4	39.8	rveyed	50.0	62.6			49.9	28.3	50.4		63.2	24.9	30 3			0 70	г. • Н
~	Date	of	Survey	1949		2/27	2/26	2/27	2/27	2/28	Not Surveyed	2/28	3/2			3/1	2/28	2/28		2/28	3/1	3,7	+		1/8	1/2
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MISSOURI BASIN	DRAINAGE BASIN	AND	SNOW COURSE **		Sun River	Bench Mark	Cabin Creek	5 Bull	Gates Park	Goat Mountain	My Lake	Wrong Creek	Wrong Cr. Ridge		Teton River	Fright Creek	Waldron Creek	West Fork	Marias River	Marias Pass	Rocky Boy	Srow Jab. 13		Milk Kiver	Rocky Boy	

** Location of course shown on Index Map

•		Years	of	Record		12	10	တ	13	9	9	11	9	11
			1	%Avg.		128	119	123	121	135	120	200	119	91
		Data	April	F.vg.		10.5	6.6	9.6	10.3	6.6	13.1	٥. 4.	17.1	7 . 3
REI ENTS	(Inches)	Average		%AVE.		149	144	139	147	158	124	210	152	138
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			March	1949		13 • 4	11.4	11.4	12.5	13.3	15.7	0 • 8	20.3	9 6
-	Snow	Depth	(In.)	1949		53.3	43.2	43.7	43.2	43.4	49.7	30.6	60.7	24.3 35.8
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MISSOURI BASIN			SNOW COURSE **		Yellowstone River	Canyon	Θ	Crevice #2	Lake	Lupine	Sylvan Pass	Shields River Porcupine	Boulder River Independence	Clark Fork of Yellowstone Camp Senia Mont.

** Location of course shown on Index Map



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| | | ON COURSE ** | | otenai River | Fernie | Gray Creek | Kimberley | Warble Canyon | Nelson | Red Fountain | Sinclair Pass | Sullivan Mine
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	Snow	Depth	(In.)	1949		Report	ort	41.9	63.2	100.0	44.5	53.0	101.0	102.0	39.3	56.0	0.09	ort	95.0	97.0		ort				
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COLUMBIA BASIN	DRAINAGE BASIN	AND	SNOW COURSE **		Flathead River	Cattle Oneen	Elk Mountain	Logan Creek	Marias Pass	North Fork Jocko	Rainy Lake	Spotted Bear Mt.	Strawberry Lake	Trinkus Lake	Snow Lab. #13	Brush Creek	Trout Lake	Limestone Pass	Upper Holland Lake	Big Creek	Pend Oreille River	Baree Mountain	Freezeout Summit	Hoodoo Creek	Lookout	

**Location of course shown on Index Map



